

Montana State Library

Records Digitization Project

COVER SHEET



This page is not part of the original document and was inserted for formatting purposes

PLEASE

Montana State Library



3 0864 1004 4675 9

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

BRIEFS FROM THE MONTANA WOMEN'S BUREAU

FEB 23 1978

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

930 E Lyndale Ave.

Helena, Montana 59601

331,405
L1n
Sept. 1976
STATEWIDE DIRECTORY

SHELVED
PERIODICALS

The Women's Bureau has accepted the responsibility of setting up a directory of women's organizations in the state. It will contain the name and function of each of the organizations and the chairperson or person to contact in each community. It is the Bureau's plan to have this completed by Spring, but that will depend upon how soon the office receives the information.

"WOMEN AWARE" SEMINAR

The statewide seminar will be held in Bozeman, on April 29, 30, and May 1, 1976. The keynote speaker will be Betty Freidan. Meg Christian, a feminist recording artist will conduct a workshop and sing. Some of the workshop topics will be employment, law, politics, sexuality, Health, the arts, minority women, sexism in education and aging. The seminar is to be funded through a Humanities Grant and the cost to the individual for attendance, room and board will be kept to a minimum. Cost schedules and additional information will be given next month.

MONTANA WOMEN AND THE LAW

The Women's Bureau and the Human Rights Bureau are working together to host a series of public meetings across the state. These meetings are to be titled, "Montana Women and the Law." It is our aim to acquaint the citizens of Montana with the laws passed by the 44th legislature that concern women. Rosemary Zion, newly appointed attorney for the Human Rights Bureau is preparing a manual which will contain the laws in language that is easily understandable to everyone. I will include more details about this in next month's briefs.

EDUCATIONAL-FINANCIAL AID SOURCES FOR WOMEN

Altrusa International Foundation - Provides awards to "women only" for training or retraining to qualify for employment. Emphasis is stressed on vocational education rather than a college education. Stipends usually average \$350.00 per year. Contact: Chairman, Founders Fund Vocation Aid Committee, Altrusa International Foundation Inc., 332 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

Business and Professional Women's Foundation - Awards career advancement Scholarships to adult women who need further training or education to begin a new career, or to improve professional opportunities. Scholarships are intended primarily for women 25 and over who are returning for graduate, undergraduate or vocational training after a break in their education. Scholarships usually average \$260.00. Graduate fellowships

are also available for doctoral candidates. Contact: Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2010 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

The Danforth Foundation - Offers a national graduate fellowship program to women with undergraduate degrees who want to pursue full or part-time graduate study leading to secondary or college teaching. Qualified applicants must be women whose education has been interrupted for three continuous years for any reason including child rearing. There is a preference for women who have completed their undergraduate degree by age 50. Grants may be up to \$4,000 per year plus tuition fees. Contact: Director, Graduate Fellowships for Women, Danforth Foundation, 222 South Central Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

Danforth Graduate Fellowships - For women whose academic careers have been interrupted. Fellowship stipends are based on need, but will not exceed \$3,000 to \$4,000 for head of family. For further information, contact: Graduate Fellowships for Women, Danforth Foundation, 222 South Central Avenue, St. Louis Missouri 63105.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DECADE

International Women's Year did not end December, 1975, but is the beginning of the International Women's Decade. The United Nations called it the Decade of Women and Development. The World Plan of Action looks ahead to "national action over a 10 year period from 1975-1985 as part of a sustained long term effort to achieve the objectives of the International Women's Year."

HABITAT CONFERENCE

Another world conference of direct concern to women is coming up. The United Nations has called a Conference on Human Settlements - "Habitat" to meet in Vancouver, Canada, May 31 to June 11, 1976. It will consider a whole group of problem areas relating to human settlements including homes, factories, stores, offices, city planning, water and food supplies, transportation, communications, energy, creative leisure and many more.

WOMEN IN THE WORK FORCE

During 1975 which has been designated as International Women's Year, much attention has been drawn to the increasingly important role of women in the economy.

The rise in female employment has been absolute as well as relative to total employment. Since a year ago total nonagricultural employment has increased 3.8%, nearly 9,000 workers, while female employment has demonstrated the major portion of this growth, slightly over 8,000, a 9.0% increase for women.

WOMEN IN THE WORK FORCE (cont.)

Attitudinal changes of a woman's role in society have come under intense reexamination in recent years, yielding more opportunities. Social liberation of the household has introduced more women into the work force.

The recent downturn in economic activity has not affected women as much as men, possibly because women have more frequent entry and reentry into the job market, due to the high seasonality of Montana industries. More significant to the stability of female employment is the low concentration of women in those industries hardest hit by the 1974 to 1975 recession, construction, mining, and heavy manufacturing. In turn, Montana's growth in employment is concentrated in those industries in which much higher percentages of women workers occur, trade, services, and government.

As the trend from a rural to an urban life style continues in Montana's major trade centers, those industries wherein women are prevalent will continue to outgrow male dominated sectors.

(Taken from Montana Employment and Labor Force for December, 1975.)

HUMAN RIGHTS AND STATE GOVERNMENT

The Women's Bureau, Human Rights Bureau, Equal Employment Opportunity Bureau and the Indian Affairs Unit have published a brochure titled, "Human Rights and State Government." Its purpose is to acquaint the people of Montana with the duties and functions of each of the four agencies that specifically deal with the rights of people under the law.

STATUS OF WOMEN ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Status of Women Advisory Council for the State of Montana met December 5, 1975 in Helena, Montana. In the morning the members attended the Governor's Ad-Hoc Committee on Human Rights. The regular Council meeting began at 1:30 in the Conference Room of the Employment Security Building. Dorothy Eck, State-Local Coordinator in the Governor's Office, spoke to the Council on the many programs, state or federally funded, for special projects. A resolution regarding continuing education for mature women was adopted by the Council and forwarded to the Commissioner of Higher Education. The Council accepted more than 13 recommendations for action by the Council and selected the top three as their priorities for the year. They are: "More State and Federal Money for the Advisory Council and the Women's Bureau," "Rural Women and Their Special Employment Problems," and "Lack of Opportunity for Indian Women."

ADVISORY COUNCIL (Cont.)

For your information, the members of the Montana Advisory Council for the Status of Women are:

Sidney Armstrong - Helena
Helena Cameron - Bozeman
Madeline Colliflower - Harlem
Blanche Copenhaver - Butte
Jean Dimich - Billings
Karen Fenton - Missoula
Alvin Fisher - Glendive
Dorothy Garvin - Kalispell
Barbara Bennetts Lynch - Butte (Chairwoman)
Bernice Rhea - Billings
Donald Robel - Helena
Phyllis Sherburne - Great Falls

